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■ Horton patients get a good deal, says town's MP

DEFENDING THE NHS

By Alex Wynn



ABOVE: Sir Tony Baldry
 BELOW: Keith Strangwood

PATIENTS have had a "very good settlement" from NHS bosses over Banbury's Horton General Hospital, town MP Sir Tony Baldry has said.

The Conservative defended management of the hospital after concerns about the loss of emergency abdominal surgery.

Keep the Horton General campaign group chairman Keith Strangwood wrote to Sir Tony to say the NHS saw it as "an annoying little outpost in the North".

But the MP said: "The facts simply do not support this assertion."

"Five years ago, the Horton had 39 full-time-equivalent consultant doctors."

"Today, it has 46 full-time-equivalent consultant doctors – an increase of 15 per cent."

He said the information was supplied by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust on request.

He said: "There are more consultants at the Horton today than at any time since the establishment of the NHS in 1948."

He added: "By any objective standard, we collectively achieved a good settlement for the Horton and those whom the Horton Hospital serves."

Emergency abdominal surgery was suspended in January last year over the level of doctor cover and made permanent two

months ago. Cardiac rehabilitation services for those in the latter stages of recovery were cut that month and the Fiennes OAP mental health ward could close.

Yet more types of ear, nose and throat procedures started in January, a rapid access paediatric clinic opened last month and work has begun on a dedicated children's outpatient centre.

He said: "I really don't think it's an adequate point that they castigate the trust on this, and disregard all of the new surgeries. It's irresponsible."

Mr Strangwood had urged Sir Tony look into why no Banbury councillors sit on a committee which has the power to block changes to NHS services.

The Oxfordshire joint health overview & scrutiny committee declined to intervene in the abdominal surgery move in February.

Yet Sir Tony said: "It is difficult to get an exact balance from every town in the county."

"The Horton has had the full support from the committee."

But Mr Strangwood said: "The needs of the people of Banbury are not being met."

"We have not been given the consultation that we should have had. We have just been fobbed off."

"Their attitude is 'I don't live in Banbury, so I don't care about Banbury'."

"As far as I'm concerned Sir Tony is elected to represent the people of Banbury, he wasn't elected to speak up for the trust."



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InBRIEF**Driver charged over 'attack bid'**

■ A 22-year-old man has been charged after a car was reversed towards a police officer. Tabase Ahmed, of Park Road, Banbury, has been charged with attempted grievous bodily harm with intent following the incident in Banbury on Tuesday, April 8. He was also charged with possession of cannabis with intent to supply and released on bail to appear at Banbury Magistrates' Court on April 28.

Not guilty verdict

■ A BUTCHER, accused of biting off half a man's ear in a nightclub, has been cleared of all charges by a jury. Gary Maguire, of Clifford Road, Blackpool, was found not guilty in Oxford Crown Court of one count of wounding with intent and the lesser offence of unlawful wounding. He was alleged to have attacked Ryan Knight in Banbury's Sound Exchange nightclub on March 3 last year. But the 38-year-old told the jury it would have been impossible for him to bite into Mr Knight's ear because he wears dentures.

Sports initiative

■ YOUNG people in Banbury will now be able to participate in free sports with a new initiative called Activate Banbury. Children aged between eight and 16 will be able to take part in 22 different sports sessions over eight weeks, beginning on Tuesday. There will be sessions in sports such as street golf, basketball and football every week in the Neithrop, Ruscote and Grimsbury areas. Tuesday will see a launch party being held at the Hill Youth and Community Centre in Bretch Hill, with free taster sessions and activities between 11am and 1pm. For more information email lydia.avann@cherwell-dc.gov.uk, phone 01295 221803 or visit cherwell youth.co.uk

■ Council to link up departments with Hampshire

County agrees to backroom merger to try to save cash

OXFORDSHIRE County Council is looking at moving some of its back-office education and customer services jobs over to its Hampshire counterparts to try to save money.

The council is exploring a partnership with Hampshire to provide the services for the two departments, which employ about 150 people.

County council leader Ian Hudspeth said the move could save money and mean fewer jobs were lost than if the

By Damian Fantato

service was outsourced to a private company.

Officers at the authority are recommending that a business case is put together for forming a partnership with Hampshire County Council to provide various services within customer services and its education department.

The number of job losses is not known. Mr Hudspeth said: "Obviously it is

reducing costs by making savings in the back office. By working with Hampshire we will be working with another public authority, which has got to be good news. We have got to make sure we are sharing services in the right areas and that you don't become so big that you lose that local connection.

"It will be located in Hampshire and it might be that people who live nearby can be part of it and it might mean fewer job losses.

"Inevitably there will be some reallocation of jobs but we always look to try to re-employ people in other areas of the county council."

Philip Wilde, of Oxfordshire's UNISON branch, said: "We will always work with the council to minimise job losses wherever possible. Anything that can save jobs is a good thing.

"Anything that makes services more efficient and is beneficial to our members is a good thing – our members are users of these services too."

In October, the county council agreed to outsource the services but since then it has been approached by Hampshire – which is creating an "integrated business centre" for finance and human resources services with Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire Fire & Rescue.

Hampshire has proposed a transfer of Oxfordshire staff in April 2015 for a fully operational service by June.

Oxfordshire
County
Council
leader Ian
Hudspeth



Device to cut bills and save energy

RESIDENTS can borrow an energy monitor for two weeks to help work out what appliances are costing them the most money to run.

The monitor will show how much electricity is being used and how much it costs.

Nigel Morris, Cherwell District Council's "clean and green" chief, said: "These devices record just how much electricity is being used and the associated financial cost.

"This usage and price will change as more or less devices are turned on to show just how much each item costs to run and which is the biggest contributor to electricity bills."

Monitors are free to borrow from the council's depot in Thorpe Lane, Banbury, between 9am and 5pm.

To reserve one, call 01295 227001.

Money to 'go green' increased

BUSINESSES looking to go green have been given a boost after a rise in the amount of funding they can apply for.

Three grants aimed at reducing CO₂, reducing energy bills and promoting environmentally-friendly products have had their values significantly increased.

Up to £5,000 is available from the Low Carbon Workspaces fund to install measures such as double glazing, cavity insulation and solar blinds to help reduce energy bills.

A further £3,000 can now be claimed by businesses looking to market products or services that benefit the environment.

And the Sustainable Routes scheme offers a grant of £1,000 to help businesses cut travel.

The grants are available through the European Regional Development Fund and accessible through grants provider Ngage Solutions until December 2015.

Project manager Sam Hampton said: "The larger grants available will mean businesses can do more with the investment, cutting costs and reducing CO₂."

Offices close

CHERWELL District Council's offices and link points will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. People can still complete services online via www.cherwell.gov.uk

'Disillusioned' councillor to quit

A DISTRICT councillor says she will not stand for re-election because she is "disillusioned" with the council's leadership.

Annie Roy-Barker, who represents Chipping Norton on West Oxfordshire District Council, resigned from the Conservative party in June to become an independent.

But she said she was evicted from all the sub-committees she was on, including environment and licensing, because she did not represent a party.

Mrs Roy-Barker, who was

elected in 2010, said: "I wouldn't join the Independent group because if you are an independent you should be an independent.

"I feel I've worked incredibly hard in the town regarding issues covered on sub-committees and I find it incredibly sad that I was prevented from doing that, for no good reason, by a Tory-led council."

Council leader Barry Norton said councillors were constitutionally obliged to be part of a group to sit on a sub-committee and it was not a political issue.



Annie Roy-Barker

Cash boost for computer clubs

A CHARITY has been handed almost £30,000 to set up computing clubs across the county.

Science Oxford was awarded the cash by the Royal Academy of Engineering to develop the Creative Computing Clubs for children across Oxfordshire.

It will enable students with an interest in computing to work with engineers and learn

software engineering skills to complete engineering projects.

The clubs will run as afterschool clubs and during school holidays and are for nine- to 16-year-olds.

Science Oxford's Bridget Holligan said: "This funding is a huge boost. It enables us to progress an initiative that we've been wanting to run for some time. Now we can do more to

create new and challenging computing activities for young people that will hopefully inspire them to think about a career in software engineering in the future."

Engineers and computer programmers interested in getting involved in the project have been invited to email creativecomputing@scienceoxford.com

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Two Oxfordshire women set records at the London Marathon

Where everyone is a race winner

THEY may not have crossed the finish line with Olympian Mo Farah but each Oxfordshire runner deserved their London Marathon medal.

Dozens of challengers from across the county completed the gruelling 26-mile race on Sunday to cheers, shouts and whistles to carry them across the finish line.

By Sam McGregor

Among them, Oxfordshire can now lay claim to two world record breakers.

Programme manager Gill Begnor, from Banbury, set the record for the fastest marathon carrying a 20lb backpack – finishing in under five hours nine minutes.

The seasoned marathon runner wanted to give herself an extra challenge and decided to run carrying the backpack.

To get herself ready for the challenge she was out training each morning at 6am.

And Sarah Dudgeon, also from Oxfordshire, set a new record for running a marathon in a wedding dress.

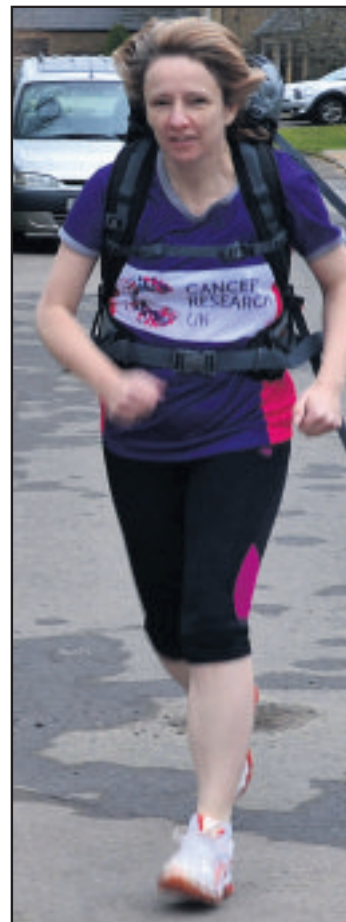
She ran the course in three hours, 16 minutes and 44 seconds, smashing the record of 3.41.40.

Mrs Dudgeon, 37, said: "It feels fantastic. I even beat a rival bride!"

Her efforts raised £240 for the British Heart Foundation and Action Medical Research.



The mass of London marathon runners reach The Mall in London



Record-winning runner Gill Begnor, with her 20lb rucksack

InBRIEF

Stabbing: third man in court

THE third man charged in connection with the fatal stabbing of Connor Tremble appeared in court on Monday. Bradley Jones, of New Road, Bradlington, appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court accused of perverting the course of justice. The 21-year-old was released on conditional bail to appear at Oxford Crown Court on April 28. William Blencowe, 20, of Oxford Road, Banbury, has been charged with murdering 17-year-old Connor outside his flat in Ilffley Fields, Oxford, on February 13. Grant Clemens, 23, of Stockwells, Moreton-in-Marsh, is accused of assisting an offender. Both remain in custody.

Station update

IMPROVEMENT works at Banbury Station will include a new information point and waiting area for passengers. Work to install new ticket gates at the station has now been completed – part of a wider programme that will include a new multi-storey car park. Chiltern spokesman Jenny Payne said: "We are always looking at ways of improving our service. A great deal of time, effort and investment has gone into this project to create a light, spacious and useful space for our passengers."

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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InBRIEF

Plunge death inquest opens

■ AN inquest opened last week into a teenager who died after falling from a multi-storey car park in Banbury. Chipping Norton School pupil Thomas Boomer, 14, *pictured*, fell from the Bolton Road car park at about 1am on March 31. Thomas, from Queen Street, Bloxham, was taken to the children's intensive care unit at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital where he died at 4.20pm. Oxfordshire Coroner Darren Salter said he was found injured by a person on the ground. A preliminary cause of death was given as multiple injuries. The inquest was postponed for a full hearing on July 9.



Probe adjourned

■ AN inquest into the death of a gardener and maintenance worker from Great Bourton was opened last week. The court heard that Anthony Copson, 48, from The Close, was found hanging at his home on April 3. Oxfordshire Coroner Darren Salter said a preliminary cause of death was given as hanging. A date for the full inquest was set as July 27.

Polls launched

■ NOMINATIONS for local elections taking place in Oxfordshire next month open in less than a week. Cherwell District Council, as well as Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire District Council, are all holding elections for councillors on May 22. To stand for election a candidate can now submit their nominations to the returning officers of these authorities – but the final deadline has been set as 4pm on Thursday, April 24.

Shocking fact revealed that gamblers spend £180,000 a day Call to curb gambling machines in the county

EVERY day gamblers put nearly £180,000 into county betting machines last year.

New figures show that more than £65m was fed into the machines in Oxfordshire last year.

The statistics, released by the Campaign for Fairer Gambling, also reveal nearly £9m was lost to the fixed-odds betting terminals in the county in 2013.

It comes as county MPs have been calling for more powers to curb gambling machines and betting shops.

There are more than 200 fixed-odds betting terminals in betting shops and arcades in Oxfordshire. Cherwell has 48 alone. The machines allow gamblers to play casino-style games with a £100 maximum bet per spin.

Former gambling-addict-turned-campaigner Owen Bailly, said: "It is great that these figures have finally been published as it will demonstrate to the people of Oxfordshire that significant amounts of money are being spent."

He added: "The prevalence of bookmakers in certain areas is a noticeable concern for many now and these clusters seem to appear in lesser well-off areas. This pattern is seen throughout the country. The more affluent areas have very few."

Oxford City Council is among a number of local authorities calling on the Government to make changes to the law, to make it easier for councils

By Emma Harrison

to refuse planning applications from bookmakers.

Adrian Parkinson, a Campaign for Fairer Gambling consultant, said the figures were estimates based on Gambling Commission figures and leaked betting shop data, which

included information about regional profits.

New measures were introduced in February so gamblers could set their own limits on time and money spent on the machines and there would be alerts after spending £250 or 30 minutes.

But Campaign for Fairer Gambling is calling for the maximum stake on the

machines to be cut to a £2 spin.

Oxfordshire MP Andrew Smith said: "With fixed-odds betting terminals being concentrated in poorer areas, I strongly support stricter limits on the number of these terminals."

"Gambling addiction is an increasing problem, and I have received representations from constituents, including recently someone coming to my advice surgery, seeking tougher controls."

"All too often money is gambled that people can ill afford, with sometimes catastrophic results for families."

Ladbrokes spokesman Ciaran O'Brien said: "The industry does not publish regional figures but typically more is spent on scratchcards or fixed-odds betting than on machines in betting shops."

"Of course these machines are also in bingo halls and pubs too, where alcohol is served."

He added: "We have no opposition to greater planning powers as long as they are not retrospective."

Remote Gambling Association spokesman Sue Rossiter said eight per cent of gambling was now done online, via computers and mobile phones.

She said: "Gambling, like other forms of leisure activities, has changed. It reflects what happens in society."

● For more information on the campaign, visit stopthefobts.org and for help with gambling addiction, call GamCare on 0808 8020133.



Reformed gambler Owen Bailly

Women's charity launches new help service for abused men

AN Oxfordshire charity is testing out a service to support male victims of sexual or domestic abuse or who have mental health issues.

Charity Clean Slate, based in the Chapel, Brice Road, Heyford Park, is launching two new services to support men, the Adult Male Outreach Service and

Talking Young Men. Nadia Brown, the charity's project manager, said: "Clean Slate has been born out of the eve women's wellbeing project which has been running for five years."

"We have been asked numerous times over the last five years what about men?"

"There has been a serious lack of help services for men. We have been approached by men for support and we feel that this is an area that needs to be tackled."

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HS2 offer of aid is not enough, say protesters

ANTI-High Speed rail campaigners say the Government's offer of compensation does not go far enough.

The Department for Transport recently published an "improved compensation and assistance package" for people who own property along the planned HS2 rail link.

The route of the new track, which will link London and Birmingham, will skirt the North Oxfordshire villages of Mixbury and Finmere.

As part of the compensation package, people living within 60 metres of the proposed line will get the full market price for their property. Those who want to sell but carry on living there can apply for a rent-back option.

A further consultation is to take place on plans to extend the boundary to 120 metres and introduce compensation schemes for people affected by the line but who don't want to move.

Bernie Douglas, chairman of the protest group Villages of Oxfordshire Opposed to HS2, said: "Anyone who has a loss in house value should be compensated – that's all they need to do."

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said: "I completely understand the concerns and anxieties of those living near the line. It is only right that those people are properly looked after."

"I believe this package of compensation and assistance will enable us to help people more."

"But I want to get it absolutely right, so I am asking for further views on some aspects before we finalise the plans."

"HS2 will transform many people's lives for the better, but where its impacts are less positive, we will do all we can to provide the right help and assistance."

Sir David Higgins has been appointed to be the Independent Residents Commissioner. He will oversee property sales and compensation.

■ Nightclubber gets suspended sentence Teenager walks free after GBH verdict

A TEENAGER, whose single punch left a man needing two metal plates in his cheek, has walked free from Oxford Crown Court.

Jordan Matin-Hamed, of Edinburgh Way, Banbury, admitted one count of causing grievous bodily harm on November 29 last year outside the Venus nightclub in Banbury.

Henry James, prosecuting, said the 18-year-old, who was 17 at the time of the incident, had been arguing with victim Joshua Smyth earlier in the evening at a different venue.

He told Judge Ian Pringle that the two men were in different groups but on "parallel" nights out, so they met up again outside the Venus club just before 3am.

The barrister said Matin-Hamed walked up to Mr Smyth and landed a single punch to his face – which had "catastrophic" consequences.

His victim had to undergo surgery for more than three hours under general anaesthetic to have his cheek reconstructed using two metal plates, Mr James said.

By Joe Nimmo

He added that Mr Smyth still suffered pain and numbness in his face and had become far more anxious about going out in the evenings.

Andrew Newton, defending, told Judge Ian Pringle his client was "shocked and appalled" by the effect his actions had had on his victim.

He said: "It was a single punch that had far-reaching consequences. They were not anticipated, not intended, and are bitterly regretted."

Judge Pringle noted that Matin-Hamed, who has no previous convictions, was about to go to university to study sociology.

He said despite it being a "completely unprovoked attack" he would spare him an immediate custodial sentence.

Matin-Hamed received 12 months detention, suspended for two years, with 120 unpaid work, a restorative justice requirement and supervision.

He will also have to pay a £100 victims' surcharge.



Jordan Matin-Hamed

Councils launch new website for tenants

A NEW website aimed at linking landlords and tenants has been launched by two councils.

Website homes2rent.org.uk will work in a similar way to commercial sites, but will be free to use for both parties.

It is operated by Cherwell and South Northamptonshire district councils.

Debbie Pickford, Cherwell's housing chief, said: "The private rented sector has grown significantly over the past few years."

"If those seeking rented accommodation can't find suitable homes, they often seek advice and assistance from the council."

"We hope that by making it easier for would-be tenants to find homes – and for good landlords to find tenants – we can reduce the number of households facing possible homelessness and the high cost to the council of paying for temporary accommodation."

To use the site, view homes2rent.org.uk, or for more information email tim.mills@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or phone 01295 221655.

Care home told to improve

A HOME support service in Bloxham has been told that it needs to make improvements in providing care that meets people's needs.

LifeCarers in Bloxham Mill provide care at the homes of the elderly and disabled in the surrounding area.

The service had a Care Quality Commission inspection in February, and inspectors found that, while staff were caring and able, treatment was not planned carefully enough.

The report, issued last week, said: "The care plans were not always adequately updated or supported by risk assessments to ensure people's safety."

But inspectors said the company had taken "proactive steps to ensure people are protected from harm".

LifeCarers refused to comment.



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Figures show 630 fewer crimes Helping to make a safer place to live



**Cherwell and
West
Oxfordshire
police chief
Superintendent
Colin Paine**

THERE were 630 fewer crimes in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire last year, according to the latest police statistics.

The crime figures, for the period between April 2013 and March 2014, show towns including Banbury, Bicester and Witney had seen an overall reduction in crime of five per cent.

Across the county, crime is at its lowest for 15 years, with a fall of three per cent.

But in the Cherwell and West Oxfordshire patch, there was an overall increase in vehicle crime of eight per cent, up from 891 incidents in 2012/13 to 966 in 2013/14, and there was also a jump in vehicle interference – amounting to 34 incidents.

Figures show there was a seven per cent drop in burglaries, down from 975 to 902, a reduction of 14 per cent in violent crime and a 19 per cent drop in drug-related offences.

Superintendent Colin Paine said: "This success is, in large measure, down to effective partnerships with West Oxfordshire District Council and Cherwell District Council in running excellent local initiatives to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour."

According to the figures, 59 more sexual offence incidents were reported, with a total of 63 rape and 190 other sexual offences. But Supt Paine said the leap in numbers was because people had more confidence in

By Sam McGregor

reporting sexual offences to the police. He said: "One of the areas we have seen a slight increase in is non-violent domestic reports. This has risen by seven per cent, which means there were an extra 150 reports this year."

"This can be positively interpreted as this means people are reporting non-violent incidents to the police earlier, giving us the opportunity to intervene before such incidents escalate."

"Other good news was that the detection rate for serious sexual offences had increased this year by 6.6 per cent, which meant we were bringing more offenders to justice."

Deputy Chief Constable Francis Habgood said Oxfordshire was a safer place to live than 15 years ago.

He said: "It is really important the public has confidence in the police and it is important we know what is happening so we can deploy our resources based on those figures."

Tony Iltott, Cherwell District Council's public protection chief, said: "Cherwell's residents and visitors can feel safer as they go about their business as crime figures are, in general, down. It's especially comforting that violent crime has dropped an amazing 14 per cent."

■ After bad weather hit butterflies in 2012, numbers are returning to normal

Making a comeback

THEY'RE a welcome sign that summer is on the way. After a decline in numbers due to the bad weather, a survey has revealed that butterflies were fighting back in 2013.

Of the 33 different Oxfordshire species, only five showed a drop in numbers, compared to 2012.

There was a spike in sightings of the common cabbage white butterfly.

The small white, large white and green-veined white had their worst year on record in 2012.

But there was a ten-fold increase in sightings of the large white in Oxfordshire, with numbers up from 315 in 2012 to 3,175 in 2013.

And sightings of the small white soared in 2013, with sightings up from 516 to 5,536.

Marc Botham, a butterfly ecologist at Oxfordshire's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, said:

"These two species were seen in great numbers

By Rachel Bayne

throughout the county in August, having been almost absent in spring when their first generation was on the wing, and clearly benefited greatly from the lovely July heatwave."

Volunteers also recorded a 60 per cent rise in sightings of the small tortoiseshell butterfly.

A total of 777 were spotted in the county in 2013, compared to just 78 in 2012.

In 2013, there was also a huge influx of clouded yellows. Volunteers recorded 50 sightings across Oxfordshire. There were none the previous year.

But experts warn that numbers for some species still remain low.

Dr Botham said: "In 2012, the butterflies didn't come out in the rain. It is not just what weather we have, but when we have it."

Around 1,000 volunteers monitored sites across the county last summer to get the results.

The UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, which is organised by the centre, found that 2012 was the worst summer for butterflies in the UK since the survey started in 1976.

In 2013, 46 out of the 56 species studied across the UK saw an increase.

Head of monitoring at Butterfly Conservation, Tom Brereton, said: "The recovery of butterflies in 2013 was highly welcome but there is still a long way to go before butterflies return to former glories."

The small tortoiseshell butterfly and, below left, Marc Botham



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Easter Monday - 10am - 5pm

Hospice in bring-a-pound-to-work plea

PEOPLE are being urged to take a pound to work – to raise cash for Katharine House Hospice.

People can host a dress-down day, cake sale or any other activity to help donate a pound to the Adderbury-based hospice.

Fundraiser Sheila Norton can help: "By donating £1 on this designated day you can help make a real difference to local families at the time they are most vulnerable. Last year £3,931 was collected on Bring a

Pound to Work Day. We'd love to beat that total."

Businesses that have already pledged to take part include Banbury Job Centre, Bloxham Dental Practice, Karcher (UK) Ltd, Lloyds Bank Commercial Finance, Marks & Spencer in Banbury and Plus One Personnel.

Small businesses or people who work on their own can donate via text, KH0X17 £1 to 70070. Details: 01295 812161 or email sheila.norton@khh.org.uk

Shock as figures reveal that 5,600 homes lie empty

By Damian Fantato

MORE than 5,600 homes have been sitting empty in Oxfordshire.

New figures reveal there were 5,616 empty homes across the county in March – of which 1,749 had been unoccupied for six months or longer – as councils said they were working hard to bring them back into use.

The news comes after Oxfordshire's housing authorities were told they had to build 100,000 homes by 2031 to help alleviate the county's pressing need for new homes.

Housing support worker Debbie Hollingsworth, 49, who has herself been on a housing waiting list since 2003, said: "I don't know the answer financially but if you walk around Oxfordshire there are so many properties that are boarded up and not being used for one reason or another.

"It seems bizarre that we have got people sleeping rough and a lot of people sofa-surfing who are not being picked up. We have around 35 people every three months coming in to see us – and that is just the tip of the iceberg.

"The biggest problem is the huge rents. Most people don't care whether they are in private rented housing or council housing, they just want a roof over their head."

Last week, Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, said the numbers of empty properties in England had fallen to a ten-year low of 635,127.

Mr Pickles said: "Empty properties can blight entire neighbourhoods, becoming a magnet for anti-social behaviour, when they should be family homes."

Cherwell District Council, which has the highest number of empty homes in the county – according to Freedom of Information figures – at more than 1,500, said this figure included homes that were briefly empty while going through the sale process.

Spokesman Tony Ecclestone said: "The latest information indicates that there are some 355 properties that have been empty for six months



ABOVE: Housing support worker Debbie Hollingsworth



RIGHT: Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

or more and that, as of the end of March, 66 have been empty for at least two years.

"The council's position is that it wants to see empty homes reused, will help get them back into use where it can, and is also prepared to use enforcement powers in some situations.

"We are taking action in several ways, including the purchase and redevelopment of properties through our Build! scheme, the provision of

grants and practical advice and also warnings to certain owners that enforcement action is likely should they fail to take steps to get homes sold or back into use."

Council offers advice and workshops

Plea to help guard local heritage sites

RESIDENTS across North Oxfordshire are being urged to register buildings and monuments of local importance to protect them from future development.

People can nominate structures to be included in the register of local heritage assets, which is being kept by Cherwell District Council.

To help people find out more about the register and how to get a monument or building protected, the council's design and conservation team are hosting workshops.

Clare Mitchell, design and conservation team leader, said: "We are hosting these two identical workshops to firstly explain more about what local heritage assets are and, secondly, how residents and communities can apply to accredit local structures with this certification."

"We will answer all of the key questions, explain the process clearly and discuss how communities can get involved to ensure that

By Sam McGregor

structures that are important to them are formally recognised as such by others."

Under Government guidelines, councils are required to identify local heritage assets that are of significance to the local community.

The local heritage assets workshops are open to residents, professionals and community groups.

Both events will be held at the council's offices at Bodicote House, Whitepost Road, Bodicote, on Wednesday, April 30, at 2.30pm and again at 6.30pm.

To book a place at the workshop, email design.conservations@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or call 01295 227006.

For further information about the local heritage assets see: cherwell.gov.uk/conservation

Fairy tale is brought to life

CINDERELLA came to Banbury, but she wore ballet shoes instead of her glass slipper.

The Vienna Festival Ballet company performed the show twice in a day at the Mill Arts Centre in Banbury as part of their nationwide tour.

Ballet mistress Emily Hufton, originally from

Oxfordshire, said: "It was really good, a lovely show. It was two really strong performances, especially when it's a particularly small stage."

"We're also performing *Swan Lake*, which everyone enjoys because it's a classic, but I love *Cinderella*."

"It's a great ballet for kids because there's so much humour. It's a really, really fun ballet to watch."

Jodie McKnight played one of the evil stepsisters, Clarinda.

She said: "I absolutely love getting to play a diva. I've never had the opportunity to play a character like this before."

"It's a really nice chance to interpret it as you see fit."

The 22-year-old ballerina said: "This version of *Cinderella* is based on the opera, so it's much more about the story."

"It's very different from how other companies would perform it. It's a really nice spin on the tale."



Adelina the Cat (Perdita-Jane Lancaster), Cinderella (Michaela Griffin), stepsisters Clarinda (Jodie McKnight) and Thisbe (Sandra Serey Sampedro) of the Vienna Festival Ballet

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Echoes from the airwaves

FOLLOWING three successive sell-out seasons at Edinburgh Fringe, two national tours and a West End season, **The Fitzrovia Radio Hour** is visiting The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, next Thursday.

Celebrating a bygone age, when radio was

By Arts Writer

stuffed with more stereotypes and cut-glass accents than afternoon tea at Lords, the show's writer/performers use new material to recreate the

spirit of vintage radio plays for a modern audience. As one review said: "Vowels are as neatly clipped as the gentlemen's moustaches, upper lips as stiff as their shirt collars, and emotions are kept as concealed as a woman's ankle... Huzzah for the Empire's finest!"

The show will include three rip-roaring tales: *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, *The Romance of Helen Simms* and *The Four Minute Mystery*.

All the stories are new yet delightfully reminiscent of the golden age of radio.

Watch *Bram Stoker's* classic tale of vampires given the full Fitzrovia treatment, witness a young secretary from London proving that romance in life need not be over at the age of 35, and prepare to be blown away by a detective thriller told in just four minutes!

Can you solve the crime before the time is up? All sound effects are created live on stage!

The Fitzrovians revel in the glamour of a bygone era, from costume and performance to props. They transport audiences to their unique universe – a wonderful imagining of how commercial 1940s radio should have been done.

The Fitzrovia Radio Hour lovingly satirises the casual imperialism and stiff upper lips of the period, throwing them into relief with physical comedy and a modern twist to produce a heady comic cocktail.

The troupe originally formed in 2008, when founding members restaged vintage radio plays from America. They enjoyed wearing pencil moustaches so much that they were inspired to write their own material in a period style.

Since then they have won widespread acclaim and performed extensively to sold-out houses including a season at Trafalgar Studios and a year-long residency at Shakespeare's Globe, London.

The Fitzrovia Radio Hour is written and performed by Jon Edgley Bond, William Findley, Geoffrey Lumb, Samara Maclaren, Tom Mallaburn, Phil Mulryne, Martin Pengelly and Sophie Steer. The show is directed by Jon Edgley Bond.

For tickets or more information, contact The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, on 01295 279002 or click on themillartscentre.gov.uk



The Fitzrovia Radio Hour, who celebrate the bygone age of the wireless

Hollies frontman in solo visit

THE Peter Howarth Unplugged show, is coming to the Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, on Friday, May 23.

Peter is the current lead singer of The Hollies and this date is part of his own solo UK tour.

The show follows a debut

performance at the same venue last year. Peter's special guest throughout the tour, will be the popular and talented singer/songwriter, Michael Armstrong.

Peter first introduced Michael to a wider audience last year and gave him the perfect opportunity to

showcase his own songs and for them to perform together too.

Michael has been likened to a "British Billy Joel with strains of Paul McCartney and Steely Dan".

For more information, contact The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, on 01295 279002.

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Powerful portrait as priest faces up to judgement day

CALVARY (15, 101 mins)
Thriller/Comedy. Brendan Gleeson, Kelly Reilly, Dylan Moran, Isaach De Bankole, Chris O'Dowd, M Emmet Walsh, Orla O'Rourke, Marie-Josée Croze. Director: John Michael McDonagh.

The luck of the Irish runs out for one unsuspecting priest in John Michael McDonagh's wicked black comedy that contrives a murder mystery before the heinous crime has been committed.

In a riveting opening sequence worthy of Alfred Hitchcock, Father James Lavelle (Brendan Gleeson) tends to his flock in a close-knit Sligo community riddled with dark secrets.

Sitting quietly in the confession booth, the holy man is stunned when an anonymous male parishioner confides: "I was raped by a priest when I was seven years old, every other day for five years."

Father James listens intently as the man calmly reveals that his abuser was never punished and he intends to exact revenge by spilling more blood.

"There's no point in killing a bad priest," the confessor continues. "I'm going to kill you because you're innocent."

Thus, Father James is instructed to put his affairs in order before his date with destiny on the local beach.

"Killing a priest on a Sunday – that'll be a good one," concludes the parishioner before he leaves the booth.

With the clock ticking, the holy man searches for glimmers of hope in the eyes of his wayward flock including the scheming laird (Dylan Moran), the butcher (Chris O'Dowd) whose adulterous wife (Orla O'Rourke) is engaged in a violent tryst with a garage mechanic (Isaach De Bankole) and his own daughter (Kelly Reilly).

Everyone has something to hide, it seems, and McDonagh's richly detailed script suggests that any of the men in town, including the doctor (Aiden Gillen) and an ailing American writer (M Emmet Walsh), might be Father James's intended killer.

Indeed, the only suspects the weather-beaten priest is willing to discount are militant Islamists.

"I don't think Sligo is high on the Al-Qaeda agenda," he quips to one of the locals.

Sunday draws closer, forcing Father James to consider all of the wrongs he has committed and their potential repercussions.

Building on incendiary themes in his 2011 directorial debut, *The Guard*, McDonagh delivers an accomplished portrait of an insular world marinating in depravity and regret.

He populates the wind-swept locations with a memorable band of misfits and degenerates.

Gleeson delivers a towering performance as a vessel of God, who may pay the ultimate price for another man's sins.

He relishes the meaty dialogue and enjoys some fractious exchanges with the locals at the



A scene from *Calvary*, with Kelly Reilly and Brendan Gleeson

Picture: PA Photo/UPI

pub where his prime suspects whisper conspiratorially as Dolly Parton trills from the jukebox.

The tension cranks up, reaching a crescendo as Father James takes the lonely walk down to the beach to discover his destiny as angry waves crash on to golden sands.

We silently plead him to stop, to turn around and flee to safety, but McDonagh has never offered his characters an easy way out.

Death comes calling for us all, and here he makes reservations.

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CakeWhat's on

Music

SATURDAY: Banbury Cross, Butchers Row, Banbury: The Summits, covers duo performing hits from the 60s to present. Free. 9pm. 01295 279014.

Horse and Groom, Milcombe: Vagabond – covers duo making their venue debut with a Bank Holiday special. Free. 9pm. 01295 722142.

WEDNESDAY: The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Margarita and the House of Love. A last chance, as they come to the end of the Oxfordshire tour. A story concert, recounting tales and music from an unusual old house in Seville, with music by de Falla, Granados, Rodrigo Lorca and more. Percussion, strings and virtuoso castanets, featuring mezzo-soprano Margarita. 7.30pm. £15, £13. 01865 244993.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Apr 17, Lucy Porter – familiar from popular TV and Radio panel shows such as *Never Mind The*

Buzzcocks, *Mock The Week* and *The Unbelievable Truth* – returns to the UK tour circuit, fresh from The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, with her best show yet. 8pm.

Apr 22 *Othello* (Cancelled)
Apr 24, The Fitzrovia Radio Hour. Recreating the unique spirit of 1940s radio plays and brilliantly evoking a dinner-jacketed age of casual imperialism and stiff upper lips.

Box office: 01295 279002.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:

Apr 17, Philberto. (cancelled)
Apr 18, Lee Evans – Work in Progress (sold out)
Apr 19, Flamenco Live! Acclaimed UK-based Flamenco guitarist Jero Férec with top performers from Madrid and Andalucía. 7.45pm
Apr 20, The Reduced Shakespeare Company present *The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged)*. Whether you are religious or atheist, you will be tickled by this romp through old time religion. An alternative Easter treat. 7.45pm.
Box office: 01608 642350
New Theatre, George Street,

Oxford:

Apr 17-19, *Dinosaur Zoo*. Awesome prehistoric creatures are brought to the stage, up close and personal. Thu-Sat 2pm, Fri-Sat 11am. £15.40-£17.90 + trans. fee.
Apr 20, Tap Factory. Featuring many genres of dance in an urban setting. £23.40-£26.90 + trans. fee. 7.30pm.
Box office: 0844 871 3020.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford:

Apr 18-19, *Flown*. Performed by Pirates of the Carabina
An evening of circus packed with daredevil stunts, madcap humour and brilliant live music. 7.30pm. £21-£11.
Apr 22-26, *This May Hurt A Bit*, by Stella Feehily, directed by Max Stafford-Clark. Nicholas James is in and out of hospital thanks to his ageing mother and unruly prostate. A family's journey through the digestive system of the NHS. Starring Stephanie Cole in a biting political comedy. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, matinees Thu, Sat 2.30pm. £26.50-£11.50.
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Chances go begging as Banbury fail

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Chesham Utd	40	29	4	7	101	43	91
Cambridge City	41	24	7	10	88	48	79
St Albans City	41	23	9	9	83	48	78
Stourbridge	41	24	5	12	107	53	77
Hungerford Tn	39	23	5	11	74	36	74
*Poole Tn	39	21	10	8	70	44	70
Bideford	41	18	12	11	72	57	66
Corby Tn	40	17	6	17	60	61	57
Redditch Utd	41	18	3	20	61	79	57
Weymouth	40	17	5	18	63	74	56
Biggleswade	40	13	16	11	75	57	55
Hitchin Tn	40	14	10	16	58	49	52
Frome Tn	41	15	7	19	57	71	52
Arlesey Tn	41	14	9	18	61	72	51
St Neots Tn	41	14	8	19	69	72	50
Truro City	41	13	9	19	59	80	48
Burnham	41	12	8	21	57	81	44
Chippenham	40	13	5	22	53	79	44
Banbury Utd	40	13	5	22	61	101	44

AFC Totton	42	9	6	27	54	116	33
Barton Tn	41	6	5	30	45	110	23
Bashley	40	4	4	32	31	116	16

* 3pts deducted
Hinckley Utd record expunged

BANBURY United dropped to fourth from bottom of the Calor League's Premier Division after a 2-0 defeat at Hardenhuish Park on Saturday.

Already safe from the drop due to their midweek win against Biggleswade Town, Banbury started brightly.

And they were unlucky not to go ahead on 34 minutes when Marcus Green's shot rebounded off a post before being cleared.

Three minutes later, Banbury went 1-0 down after their on-loan Wolves youngster Dutton wrongly picked up a backpass.

The resulting indirect free-kick

Chippenham Tn	2
(Griffin 37, Guthrie 54)	
Banbury Utd	0

was knocked to Alan Griffin who fired home through a mass of players.

Although Banbury improved after the break, Chippenham doubled their lead following another error from Dutton.

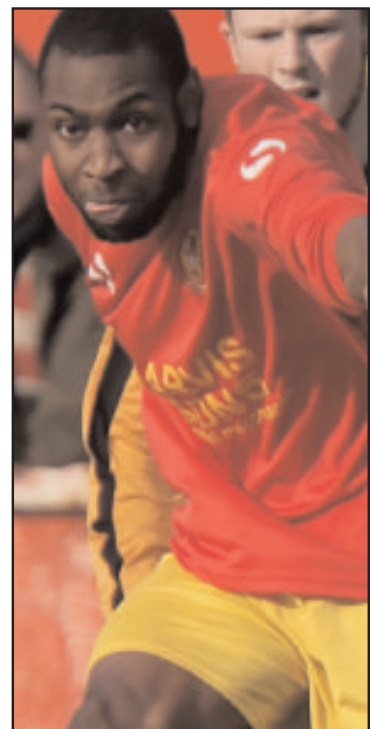
The keeper raced off his line to clear a through ball only for James Guthrie to get their first and lob him from the edge of the area.

At the other end, Nic Evangelinos saw his shot kicked off the line and into the arms of home keeper Kent Kauppinen.

Five minutes later, an Evangelinos effort was parried by Kauppinen to Claudio Dias, who hit the side-netting from three yards as Banbury failed to find a cutting edge.

Banbury Utd: Dutton, Cray, Fathers, (Collins 61) Isaac (Green 28), Abrahams, Fishwick, Obeng, Martin (Tappin 74), Skendi, Dias, Evangelinos. Subs not used: Mullarkey, Pinto.

Attendance: 325.



Marcus Green, whose shot rebounded off the woodwork

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times



ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

This week, with every challenge comes fulfillment and with every disappointment comes strength. Where you live comes into question and if you wanted to make a move away then you'll find the contacts you need to do so successfully. Your ruling planet Mars could see your temper flare at those who ask you questions of too personal a nature. Ring now for your future to be revealed.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

The pain you were feeling now becomes your strength. Others think you can't cope with what's going on but they're wrong. I know you'll be as proud of yourself as I am of you. Delayed or even cancelled travel plans make way for you to work on a personal issue which was turning stale. Spending time with older family helps them feel more secure about their future. Ring now for insight.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

You need to pick which path you want in life but you're confused and scared of making bad choices. It's fear that is your enemy. Take a leap of faith Gemini, life and love will get a lot more interesting if you do. Trying to juggle work and home life is proving difficult. Accept offers of help and offload before you explode. Ring now so I can reveal where you're heading.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

You're not feeling as strong or as positive as you should, but you're not taking control of your situation. You're allowing others to tell you how you feel and what you should be thinking. From Tuesday, you get back the stubborn nature which is your saving grace and you start to separate the real friends from the fake ones. Ring now to hear who's going to pleasantly surprise you.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

All of the little things you have done since the beginning of this year have added up to one big change which you will get to know about before this week is over. You've been changed and so has what you want out of life. You're no longer willing to settle for anything but you want more from life and these are the days you'll be saying so. Ring now so we can get life into perspective.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

If you keep your nose to the grindstone and get your work done this week then you'll be in for some surprises. Allow your attention to be diverted by other's problems and you'll not only miss out on great opportunities but you could end up with the blame for the dramas others are involved in. Travel plans change the status of a relationship. Phone me and I'll show you your future.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Something has come to an end but rather than feel sad, acknowledge that this also marks a new beginning. A friendship you've built up could be something more. This week you start to look at the future instead of just the past. I hope you're as proud of how far you've come as others are of you. Dare to take an impromptu night out. You won't believe where it can lead! Ring now for a revelation.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Of course, everyone has an opinion on your life right now because you've been looking to others for advice so much this month. Your friends and family aren't used to you relying too much on them. I think you know what you want though Scorpio and I think you just need to say it out loud to make it real. Ring now to hear which sign can keep that secret you're still harbouring.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

I know last week didn't go the way you planned, but try again this week as you now have the backing of the stars. Changes to your day to day living start to kick in. This could mean you see less of certain people than you used to, but in this process you start to mix with those you actually have far more in common with. Ring now to make sense of those mixed messages.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Don't leave work half done this week or you will run the reputation you've worked so hard to build up. Promise to be a professional, for those with the power are watching, ready and able to help you take things higher. Maybe if you sorted out that personal issue and had that confrontation you wouldn't feel so side-tracked. Ring me to hear why you may need to find your passport soon.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You're really good at working as part of a team this week which can help those who don't know you to soften towards you. If you owe an apology then make it before Thursday, or you may not get the chance to make it at all. You may find that you have strange dreams this week, but let them inspire you to make the changes you've secretly acknowledged have to be yours. Ring now, let's talk.

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

The self pity we saw you wallowing in is replaced by confidence, as you get life and love into proper perspective and work out what needs to be done to pull a situation back into line. New faces who enter your life put the fun back into your days and help you to not take a futile situation in your circle as seriously as you have been. Ring now so I can show you your options for the future.

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in the past I have asked for many favours, this time I ask for this special one (mention it). Take it Dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it, then his merciful eyes it will become his favour not mine. Amen. Say for 3 days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. D.S

DEAR HEART OF JESUS

in the past I have asked for many favours, this time I ask for this special one (mention it). Take it Dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it, then his merciful eyes it will become his favour not mine. Amen. Say for 3 days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. D.S

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Renault captures fun in supermini

By David Duffy

THERE is a tangible move towards putting a lot more fun, even a little mischief, into modern superminis.

And no vehicle better displays the trend than Renault's first supermini crossover, the compact high-riding Captur. It is built on the same underpinnings as the latest Clio, and the funky Nissan Juke, but tweaked to create more space inside.

It looks like nothing else on the road and its wider tracks ensure confident and stable handling, given Captur's high ground clearance and larger wheels.

Even the engine choice springs a surprise. On paper, a 900cc, triple-cylinder engine might sound potentially dull and noisy — and at worst both. In reality, the turbocharged tiddler, the smallest of the three engines on offer, delivers a brilliant mix of quiet economy and surprisingly swift motoring. Bold exterior styling, including 17-inch alloy wheels and chrome headlight surrounds, is more than matched by the attention paid to the interior. The upmarket Dynamique MediaNav specification grade came with a leather-trimmed steering wheel with gloss black insert, removable and washable carbon seat covers with contrast panels, black gloss door armrests

and chrome splashes. And the dashboard housed a sleek-looking and thoroughly ingenious optional piece of technology, displayed on a built-in seven-inch screen.

The so-called R-Link multimedia system, that can be operated by voice, delivers email access (when the car is stationary), a photo and video viewer, software to help with eco-efficient driving and TomTom navigation.

A text-to-speech function allows messages or RSS feeds to be broadcast out loud, even while driving, and a series of apps — specifically designed for the system — can be downloaded, covering everything from tweeting to games, but thankfully they can only be used while stationary.

True car geeks might even like the R-Sound Effect app that lets you modify the engine sound

Auto facts

Model: Renault Captur Dynamique MediaNav TCE
Price: £14,995
Insurance group: 9E (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined): 56.5mpg
Top speed: 106mph
Length: 412.2cm/162.3in
Width: 177.8cm/70in
Luggage capacity: 13.3 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 9.9 gallons/45 litres
CO2 emissions: 136g/km
Warranty: 4 yrs/ 100,000 miles



TINY TURBO: The 900cc engine delivers a surprising mix of power and economy

experienced inside the car through the speakers.

But none of this web-enabled sophistication, or avant-garde styling, detracts from the sheer practicality of the Captur, which has plenty of space for five, a sliding 60/40 rear bench seat and a clever boot, with a dual-height bootfloor complete with a reversible section.

With refinement, ride and handling to match any modern family hatchback, the Captur also boasts plenty of kit. In short, the keenly-priced Captur is a fun-to-drive car with striking looks and more than a dash of style.

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Wheelsanddeals

■ THE revolutionary BMW i3 electric car has been awarded the top prize in the first UK Car of the Year Awards. After grabbing the prize for Best Supermini the i3 won the overall title in the new awards, as voted for by a group of 27 respected UK-based motoring journalists. Runner-up to the BMW i3 for the UK Car of the Year 2014 prize was the Ford Fiesta ST, which won the Best Performance Car category. Joint third place went to the Skoda Octavia Estate and Jaguar F-type, which topped the Best Estate and Best Open Top Car categories respectively.

■ LAND Rover is to launch a hot version of its popular Evoque. The Autobiography Dynamic variant will be powered by an uprated version of the firm's 2.0-litre turbo petrol motor. In 281 horsepower trim, Land Rover claims this go-faster Evoque will hit 60mph from rest in 6.7 and go on to a top speed limited to 140mph. Buyers will be able to choose from both three and five-door models.

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Speedsurveynews

Ton-up drivers pose risk on motorways

ALMOST seven million (17 per cent) motorists have hit speeds of 100mph and above on the motorway, according to new research from Direct Line.

About two in five (38 per cent) drivers admitted to motorway speeds of over 90mph and one in 10 (11 per cent) confessed to having driven at 50mph or above in built-up residential areas.

The insurer's study questioned motorists about the speeds they had driven at and found that the vast majority had broken UK speed limits, with 79 per cent having broken the 70mph

limit on motorways and 71 per cent having exceeded 30 mph in residential areas. 61 per cent of drivers have also exceeded the speed limit in a 20mph zone.

The research also questioned drivers about the factors most likely to make them speed and found that 55 per cent were likely to significantly increase their speed when the roads are clear.

Familiarity with the roads also leads to motorists putting their foot down, with 42 per cent admitting this is a reason they are likely to significantly

increase their speed.

Other situations likely to make drivers speed up included knowing there are no speed cameras (23 per cent) and playing upbeat music (11 per cent).

Rob Miles, director of Motor at Direct Line, said: "We know motorists aren't driving at these excessive speeds all the time, but even as a one-off it's still extremely dangerous. It's easy to put your foot down when you're feeling rushed or if there aren't any speed cameras, but we'd urge motorists to drive with due care and attention."

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault Captur Dynamique MediaNav TCe 90 S&S are: Urban 47 (6); Extra Urban 64.02 (4.4); Combined 56.49 (5). The official CO₂ emissions are 115g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

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*£1000 deposit contribution is available to new Renault Finance customers when taking Renault Finance on a new Renault Captur. Offers cannot be used with other schemes or finance offers and are available on specified new vehicles when ordered by 30 June 2014. Car shown has optional i.d. metallic paint at £495 and painted roof at £300.



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*Prices shown include delivery to dealer, number plates, 20% VAT, 12-month Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Prices shown are Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Prices, which apply to new Dacia vehicles when ordered by 30 June 2014.

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